

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 29-33 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In independent claim 1, the prior art does not disclose:

“set a parameter in response to both a lengthwise and a widthwise distance of the preceding vehicle from the own vehicle;

adjusting the parameter in a case where any forward traveling object other than the preceding vehicle has been judged;

judge whether the adjusted parameter is larger than a threshold value; and
output a signal indicating that the preceding vehicle is not traveling in front of the travel path of the own vehicle in a case where the adjusted parameter is larger than the threshold value”.

This statement is not intended to necessarily state all the reasons for allowance or all the details why the claims are allowed and has not been written to specifically or impliedly state that all the reasons for allowance are set forth (MPEP 1302.14).

The dependent claims are allowed for depending on an allowed base claim.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Communication

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RONNIE MANCHO whose telephone number is (571)272-6984. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs: 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tran Khoi can be reached on 571-272-6919. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Ronnie Mancho/
Examiner, Art Unit 3664

/KHOI TRAN/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3664